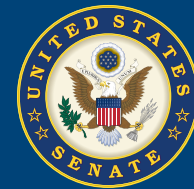




# SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER FIGHTING FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE



*Senator Reid has an established track record of fighting to ensure that all Nevadans receive quality, affordable health coverage. This Congress, Senator Reid led the Senate in passing landmark legislation to reform America's health insurance system. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act achieves comprehensive reform in a fiscally responsible manner. It will extend coverage to more than 600,000 uninsured Nevadans, close the Medicare "donut hole" for 328,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Nevada, prohibit insurance companies from discriminating and denying coverage to those who need it, all while lowering costs and improving quality of care.*

*Senator Reid has always made improving America's health care system a priority, from continuing to support funding to advance medical research to sponsoring legislation to dramatically improve women's access to health care. As Majority Leader, he has led efforts to stave off Medicare cuts that would have hurt both providers and patients. He consistently introduced new legislation addressing the needs of those affected by disease and disability, working for those with ailments ranging from cancer to ALS. Putting Nevada first, Senator Reid secured millions of dollars in federal grants and funding for Nevada's health care programs and services.*

## **Senator Reid Led the Effort to Pass Landmark Health Insurance Reform Legislation Providing Coverage to More Than 600,000 Uninsured Nevadans.**

Senator Reid worked tirelessly to pass legislation that will lower costs, create greater choices, and improve the quality of health care for American families. By providing Nevadans with a variety of coverage options and limiting the ability of insurance companies to discriminate against consumers, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* improves access to higher quality health care. Signed into law on March 23, 2010, this landmark legislation provides lower-cost prescription drugs to Nevada seniors and \$5 billion in tax credits for Nevadans to purchase private insurance within the first five years of this bill's enactment. [Senate Vote 396, HR 3590, 12/24/09, P.L. 111-148; Senate Vote 105, HR 4872, 3/25/10, P.L. 111-152]

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REID HEALTH CARE RECORD

- ★ Senator Reid Led the Effort to Pass Landmark Health Insurance Reform Legislation Providing Coverage to More Than 600,000 Uninsured Nevadans
- ★ Senator Reid Prevailed Over a Bush Veto and Successfully Passed Legislation to Ensure Doctors Who See Medicare Patients are Fairly Compensated
- ★ Senator Reid Led the Fight to Reauthorize and Improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, Known as Nevada Check Up
- ★ Senator Reid Has Supported Funding for Lifesaving Medical Research and Legislation to Help Prevent, Treat and Cure a Wide Range of Illnesses
- ★ Senator Reid Worked to Close the Health Care Divide in Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities
- ★ Senator Reid is the Sponsor of the Prevention First Act to Improve Access to Women's Health Care
- ★ Senator Reid Secured Millions of Dollars for Health Care Facilities and Programs for Nevada
- ★ Senator Reid Secured Increased Funding for Medicaid to Help Nevada Cope with the Economic Crisis and Cosponsored an Extension of This Federal Assistance
- ★ Senator Reid Championed Assistance for Out-of-Work Nevadans in Continuing COBRA Coverage and Continues to Work to Extend the Program
- ★ Senator Reid Fought to Pass Legislation to Improve the Quality and Availability of Mental Health Services

- ***Better Health Care Coverage for Nevadans*** Up to 518,000 residents who are uninsured and 132,000 residents who have individual market insurance will gain access to affordable coverage. Up to 311,000 residents will qualify for premium tax credits to help them purchase health coverage. 328,000 seniors will receive free preventive services and 58,200 seniors will have their drug costs in the Medicare Part D “donut hole” covered over time. Up to 24,000 small businesses will be eligible for tax credits for premiums. [HealthReform.gov, accessed 3/20/10]
- ***Premium Tax Credits to Expand Private Insurance Coverage in Nevada*** Reform will provide \$5 billion in premium tax credits and cost-sharing tax credits for residents in Nevada from 2014 to 2019 to purchase private health insurance. [Senate Finance Committee]
- ***Reduced Premiums*** Health insurance reform will lower premiums in the non-group market by 14 to 20% for the same benefits – premium savings of \$1,380 to \$1,970 for a family in Nevada. [Senate Finance Committee estimate based on CBO, 11/30/09]
- ***Increased Medicaid Support*** The Federal government will fully fund the coverage expansion for the first three years of the policy, and continue substantial support, paying for 90% of costs after 2020, compared to Nevada’s current FMAP of 50.2%. In total, Nevada could receive \$3.6 billion more dollars in federal funds for Medicaid as a result of the expansion from 2014 to 2019. [Federal Register 73:229, 11/26/08, p. 72051-72053; Senate Finance Committee]
- ***Improved Value for Medicare Advantage*** The 228,000 seniors in Nevada who are not enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan will no longer cross subsidize these private plans, saving \$45 in premium costs per year. The newly passed bill will gradually move toward a fair payment system that rewards performance. [Senate Finance Committee]

**Senator Reid Prevailed Over a Bush Veto and Successfully Passed Legislation to Ensure Doctors Who See Medicare Patients are Fairly Compensated.** Senator Reid has long worked to ensure stable and fair compensation for Nevada providers who serve Medicare patients. In 2008, he led the Senate in overriding a Bush veto of the *Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act* of 2008. This bill stopped the looming 10.6% Medicare physician pay cut and provided a 1.1% physician fee increase for 2009. It helped ensure care for seniors and people with disabilities, extended the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative for two years, and increased reporting incentive payments, while reducing administrative costs. By encouraging physicians to transition to electronic prescribing, this legislation helps to prevent serious medical errors and save taxpayer dollars. It also includes measures to improve benefits for Nevada’s seniors by promoting beneficiary access to primary care services, providing Medicare mental health parity, and increasing coverage for preventative services. Senator Reid has led efforts to stave off additional cuts and continues to work for a comprehensive solution to physician payment in Medicare. [Senate Vote 177, HR 6331, 7/15/08]

**Senator Reid Led the Fight to Reauthorize and Improve the Children’s Health Insurance Program, Known as Nevada Check Up.** Access to high quality and affordable health care is important for all Nevadans, but especially for our growing children. Senator Reid helped strengthen the Nevada Check Up program by leading the Senate in passing the *Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act* of 2009. This long overdue reauthorization ensures health care for thousands of children across Nevada whose parents earn too much for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private insurance. Thanks to this expansion, over 37,000 additional children in Nevada are eligible to get the doctor visits and medicines

they need when they are sick and the checkups they need to stay well. [Senate Vote 31, HR 2, 1/29/09, P.L. 111-003; Families USA, January 2009]

**Senator Reid Has Supported Funding for Lifesaving Medical Research and Legislation to Help Prevent, Treat and Cure a Wide Range of Illnesses.** Senator Reid has worked to direct a historic level of funding to the National Institutes of Health for biomedical research in areas such as stem cells, cancer, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS. These investments could lead to new treatments or cures for a broad range of diseases and conditions.

- **National Institutes of Health** Senator Reid has an established track record of directing increased funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), our nation's premier medical research institution. As part of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (Recovery Act), Senator Reid supported allocating over \$10 billion for the NIH. These investments could lead to new cures and treatments for a broad range of illnesses and conditions like cancer, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, diabetes, Parkinson's disease and spinal cord injuries. [Senate Vote 64, HR 1, 2/13/09, P.L. 111-005]
- **Stem Cell Research** Senator Reid championed legislation that passed both the Senate and House in 2006 and 2007 that supported federal funding and regulation of stem cell research. Hundreds of leading medical and scientific associations and dozens of patient-advocacy organizations representing millions of Americans supported this legislation because stem cell research offers unprecedented opportunities to treat a wide range of medical conditions for which there are few or no cures. [Senate Vote 206, HR 810, 7/18/06; Senate Vote 127, S. 5, 4/11/07]
- **Cancer** In addition to directing federal funds to cancer research at the NIH, Senator Reid has also authored or helped to ensure the passage of numerous bills which are now law, including: the *Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act*, which will help to prevent the high rate of death from lung cancer in Nevada that is caused by tobacco; the *Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act*, which will help to establish a national strategy to study the potential links between the environment and breast cancer; the *Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act*, which expands research programs aimed at preventing childhood cancer; and the *National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program*, which funds the Women's Health Connection in Nevada and provides timely access to breast and cervical cancer screening for low-income, uninsured and underserved women. [Senate Vote 207, HR 1256, 6/11/09; UC, HR 1157, 9/27/08; UC, HR 1553, 7/16/08; UC, HR 1132, 3/29/07]
- **Diabetes** Senator Reid also supported the creation of the Special Diabetes Program in 1997 and its reauthorizations in 2000, 2002 and 2008. This program provides \$150 million annually to support research towards a cure for type 1 diabetes and \$150 million annually to support diabetes treatment and prevention strategies targeted to Native American populations. [UC, HR 1015, 7/31/97; UC, HR 4577, 12/15/00; UC, HR 5738, 11/20/02; Senate Vote 177, HR 6331, 7/15/08]
- **HIV/AIDS** Senator Reid has repeatedly supported funding to fight HIV and AIDS and provide treatment for those living with the disease. He supported the creation of the *Ryan White CARE Act* in 1990 and its reauthorizations in 1996, 2000, 2006 and 2009. Most recently, Senator Reid led the Senate in passing the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act, which will help fight HIV/AIDS and other diseases in Africa and around the globe. [Senate Vote 97, S. 2240, 5/16/90; UC, S. 641, 5/2/96; UC, S. 2311, 6/6/00; UC, HR 6143, 12/6/06; UC, S. 1793, 10/19/09; Senate Vote 182, HR 5501, 7/16/08]

- **Other** Senator Reid has championed many other bills like the *ALS Registry Act*, a newly enacted law that will help scientists find treatments or a cure for ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease); the *Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act* of 2008, which will help fulfill the promise of genetic research by ensuring that genetic information cannot be used to discriminate against individuals by their insurance companies and employers; the *Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Act*, as well as funding for research and educational programs for illnesses like Interstitial Cystitis and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, an illness which was first identified in Northern Nevada. [UC, S. 1382, 9/23/08; Senate Vote 113, HR 493, 4/24/08; S. 981, Introduced 5/5/09; Appropriations Requests, reid.senate.gov]

### **Senator Reid Worked to Close the Health Care Divide in Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities.**

In January, Senator Reid led a bipartisan effort to pass the *Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act* (CHIP). This legislation extends health insurance to 4 million children who would otherwise lack coverage, including as many as 37,000 in Nevada alone. Nevada's version of CHIP, Nevada Check Up, will allow parents to take their children to the doctor to receive the health care necessary to lead productive lives. The bill provides \$100 million in new grants to state outreach and enrollment efforts and adds \$200 million in grants to states to improve dental coverage for children. [Senate Vote 31, HR 2, 1/29/09; Washington Post, 2/4/09; Berkley Press Release, 2/4/09; Reid Press Release, 8/2/07]

### **Senator Reid is the Sponsor of the Prevention First Act to Improve Access to Women's Health Care.**

Senator Reid is the sponsor of bipartisan legislation that would improve access to women's health care, reduce the rate of unintended pregnancy and reduce abortions – all while saving taxpayer dollars. The *Prevention First Act* would improve access to contraception for low-income women, help to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy in Nevada, and end insurance discrimination against women by requiring health plans to cover prescription contraception to the same extent that they cover prescription drugs and other medical services. [S. 21, Introduced 1/6/09; Voice Vote, HR 1105, 3/10/09; Senate Vote 396, HR 3590, 12/24/09; Senate Vote 105, HR 4872, 3/25/10]

- One provision of this bill, which is now law, allows hundreds of safety-net providers to access affordable prescription birth control. Without this law, skyrocketing drug prices would have made it difficult for the thousands of Nevada women who rely on safety net providers to access the family planning services they need to help prevent unintended pregnancies. This common-sense legislation did not cost the taxpayers a dime. [P.L. 111-117; S. 21, Introduced 1/6/09]
- Another provision of this bill that recently became law will make it easier for States to extend Medicaid coverage for family planning services and supplies to women who should be entitled to Medicaid funded prenatal, labor, delivery and postpartum care if they became pregnant. [P.L. 111-148; S. 21, Introduced 1/6/09]

**Senator Reid Secured Millions of Dollars for Health Care Facilities and Programs for Nevada.** During Senator Reid's time in the Senate, he has made it a priority to work for better health care for every Nevadan. Thanks to Senator Reid's efforts over the last decade, Nevada's medical research institutes and medical facilities, including University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, the Nevada Cancer Institute, University of Nevada School of Medicine, UNLV School of Public Health, UNLV Telemedicine Network, University of Nevada Health Sciences System, and Nevada Rural Hospital Partners have received tens of millions of dollars for construction, training, research and development, and various programs. Over the past three years alone, Senator Reid worked to obtain a wide range of federal grants, including over \$14 million from the Recovery Act for Nevada Rural Health Centers, Inc. to improve facilities and expand services in rural Nevada, nearly \$2 million from the Recovery Act for Health Access Washoe County to improve facilities and expand services



throughout Washoe County, \$500,000 for the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada for youth suicide prevention programs, and over \$450,000 for the State of Nevada to assist individuals with chronic disabilities better access state and local services. In response to the Hepatitis C crisis in Southern Nevada, Senator worked to secure over \$3 million to address the problem. Senator Reid's efforts helped ensure Nevada's public health and emergency response services have the resources necessary to provide high quality health care in response to any ailment. [PL 109-103; PL 110-161; PL 111-8; PL 106-377; PL 106-554; PL 108-447; PL 108-137; PL 108-199; PL 107-; Reid PL 111-8]

**Senator Reid Secured Increased Funding for Medicaid to Help Nevada Cope with the Economic Crisis and Cosponsored an Extension of This Federal Assistance.** Senator Reid fought to ensure that Nevada received the highest percentage increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP, the Medicaid match rate) of any state as part of the Recovery Act at the beginning of last year. This funding helped our state avoid cutting Medicaid and other key programs during the recession. Senator Reid is now leading the fight to extend this funding through the end of the next fiscal year. In addition to ensuring coverage for children, parents, seniors, and people with disabilities, this extended funding will help states like Nevada retain employees and relieve state funding shortfalls, allowing the state of Nevada to continue to support affordable, quality medical care that more than 160,000 Nevadans rely on every day. The six month extension is critical as we work to emerge from these tough economic times. [S 3000, Introduced 2/4/10; Senate Vote 64, HR 1, 2/13/09]

**Senator Reid Championed Assistance for Out-of-Work Nevadans in Continuing COBRA Coverage and Continues to Work to Extend the Program.** When workers lose their jobs, they often lose their health insurance at the time when they can least afford to go uninsured. Senator Reid ensured that those Nevadans who lost their jobs would have assistance in participating in extended employer coverage through COBRA as part of the Recovery Act. Under the Recovery Act, eligible workers can receive a subsidy of 65 percent to help defray the cost of continuing their group coverage. Senator Reid is now working on extending the subsidy so that workers continuing to struggle to find employment can continue their coverage. [P.L. 111-5]

**Senator Reid Fought to Pass Legislation to Improve the Quality and Availability of Mental Health Services.** Senator Reid was instrumental in the creation of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, a coordinated approach laying out a suicide prevention framework drawing from the combined work of advocates, clinicians, researchers and survivors. He also helped to pass the *Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act*, providing additional funding for research, training, and technical assistance to target youth suicide. Having lost his father to suicide, working to improve mental health services is deeply personal for Senator Reid, and his experiences inspired him to introduce the *Stop Senior Suicide Act* in an effort improve interagency coordination and increase funding for the treatment of mental, psychoneurotic, and personality disorders. Senator Reid also supported legislation that will lower Medicare coinsurance for outpatient mental health, and helped to secure passage of mental health parity law in 1996 and 2008 that will ensure that mental illnesses are treated on par with other physical illnesses. [UC, S.Res. 54, 2/13/97; UC, S. 2634, 9/9/04; S. 1854, Introduced 7/23/07; Senate Vote 177, HR 6331, 7/15/08; Senate Vote 278, HR 3666, 9/5/96, Senate Vote 213, HR 1424, 10/1/08]

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